

TOWN OF DAVIE
TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM/PHONE: Gary Shimun, Town Administrator/797-1030

PREPARED BY: Laurie Serur, Administrative Aide

SUBJECT: Community for a Lifetime

AFFECTED DISTRICT: Townwide

ITEM REQUEST: **Schedule for Council Meeting**

TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM: EVALUATE - A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL TO FIRST EVALUATE THE IMPACT THAT COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME WILL HAVE ON ADVANCING THE INDDPENDENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND LATER REMOVING BARRIERS IN ORDER TO CREATE A COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME.

REPORT IN BRIEF: The initiative is supported by Governor Charlie Crist and is administered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. The project is "Communities for a Lifetime" which is a statewide initiative that would allow the Town of Davie Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to lead the charge and develop local partnerships to engage in an assessment and exchange ideas, and to create an inventory of services and opportunities that promote the independence and quality of life for older adults in the community. The passage of this resolution is required as the initial step to indicate the interest and commitment of the community leaders to support the initiative and acts as notification to the Department of Elder Affairs. Once notified, the Department of Elder Affairs will be in contact with the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to assist in establishing a game plan for the self assessment and to initiate a plan for establishing partnerships to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: N/A

CONCURRENCES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: not applicable

Has request been budgeted? n/a

RECOMMENDATION(S): Motion to approve resolution

Attachment(s):

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL TO FIRST EVALUATE THE IMPACT THAT COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME WILL HAVE ON ADVANCING THE INDDPENDENCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND LATER REMOVING BARRIERS IN ORDER TO CREATE A COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME.

WHEREAS, The Town of Davie supports the Florida Department of Elder Affairs' Communities for a Lifetime initiative to make Florida a friendlier place to live for people of all ages, that they may be as independent as long as possible, and remain in their homes and in the communities they love; and

WHEREAS the State of Florida has the highest percentage of elders of any state in the nation and our elder population will continue to increase, reaching numbers without precedent in the first part of the XXI Century; and

WHEREAS, in order to allow all residents to maintain their dignity, security and independence, communities must evaluate, assess and modify their infrastructures to create a Community for a Lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Davie and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs share the vision and responsibility to improve the life of all citizens so they can prepare for and enjoy aging in place throughout their life; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve our mutual goals, cities and counties should begin to build together a place free of physical, emotional and social barriers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA.

SECTION 1. That our community will make every effort to first evaluate and later remove barriers to create a Community for a Lifetime.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2008

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2008

RECEIVED
MAY 23 2008

**TOWN OF DAVIE
SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUDY PAUL, CHAIR
14421 SW 24TH ST.
DAVIE, FL 33325**

May 23, 2008

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilmembers and Town Administrator,

At the last advisory meeting a motion was made and unanimously approved for me to communicate with you regarding an initiative in which the members of the Senior Advisory would like to become engaged.

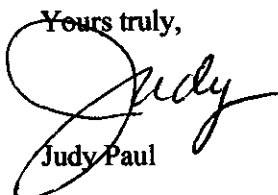
The project is "Communities for a Lifetime" and is supported by Governor Charlie Christ through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. This is a statewide initiative that was begun in 1999 and involves the planning and implementing of improvements in municipalities that benefit their residents. Davie has taken great strides to make the community a better place for all its residents. This project would assist the Senior Advisory in identifying what has already been accomplished and make recommendations that would help make Davie a better place for seniors to live. To quote the Overview of the Communities for a Lifetime Blueprint: "The ongoing process of self assessment and improvement can help a community achieve the following goals:

- * To create an inventory of services and opportunities that promote the independence and quality of life for older adults in the community.
- * To initiate partnerships to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities."

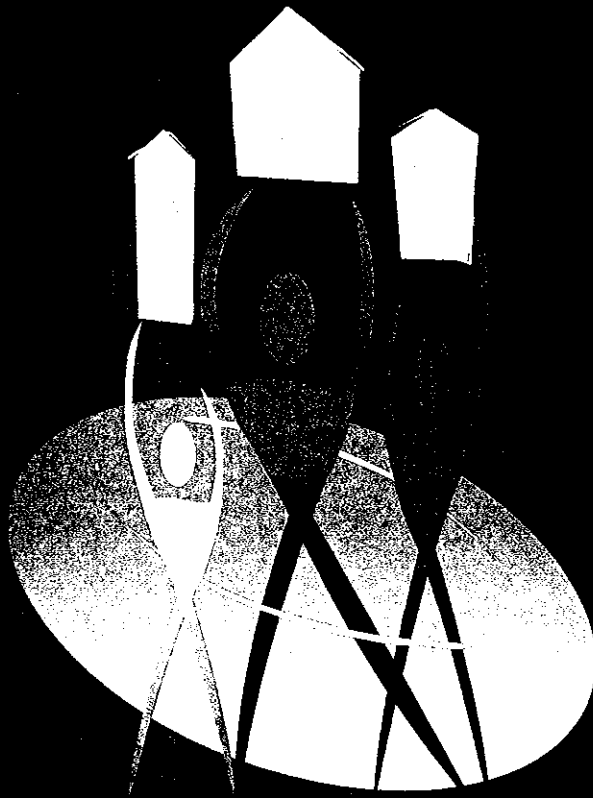
This initiative would allow the Senior Advisory to lead the charge and develop local partnerships to engage in an assessment and exchange of ideas based on the Blueprint. I have enclosed a copy of the Blueprint for each Councilmember and a copy of the resolution that the Advisory Committee is requesting Council to pass. The passage of this resolution is required as the initial step to indicate the interest and commitment of the community leaders to support the initiative and as notification to the Dept. of Elder Affairs.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Senior Citizen Advisory. We look forward to this resolution being placed on the June 18th Agenda. A representative from the Dept. of Elder Affairs will be in the area on that date and said she will make the time to attend the meeting and answer any questions that council may have. Janine Rogers- Harris is the Community Relations Manager for the Communities for a Lifetime Bureau.

Yours truly,


Judy Paul

Blueprint



COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward

Governor Charlie Crist _____ 2

Secretary's Message

Department of Elder Affairs _____ 3

Overview and Benefits of Communities for a Lifetime _____ 4

Process and Team Building _____ 5

Community Profile _____ 7

Areas of Focus _____ 8

Best Practices _____ 19

Community Resources _____ 20

Sample Proclamation _____ 23



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2007

Dear Community Leader:

Senior citizens play a vital role in Florida's rich heritage! They bring a wealth of life experience and vitality to all generations of Floridians.

Florida's elders deserve the up-most respect and dignity, as well as safe housing, affordable healthcare, intergenerational relationships, and safety standards that will ensure that our senior citizens live active and enriched lives.

Florida seniors are instrumental in paving the way for future generations to live and thrive. For this reason, our state must remain firmly committed to providing the highest quality of life for our older adults.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

DEPARTMENT OF

**ELDER
AFFAIRS**
STATE OF FLORIDA

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

E. DOUGLAS BEACH, PH.D.
SECRETARY

I want to applaud the community leaders in the more than 160 cities, towns and counties who have embraced the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative. I know that these leaders have considered the unique needs and contributions of their older residents. Furthermore, because the initiative has expanded to include the needs of all residents, I feel confident that the quality of life will improve for everyone.

In addition, participating *Communities for a Lifetime* are best positioned to develop a strategy to address some of the most critical issues facing today's leaders. Whether it is economic development, growth management or the need for more affordable housing, the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative can help develop the partnerships needed to address these complex challenges.

In the same way, partnerships among a wide variety of community organizations are necessary to ensure that no resident is isolated and at risk. As collaboration takes place, the community also becomes more aware of the ways that seniors in the community enrich our schools, parks and service organizations through leadership and hours of volunteer service. These volunteer efforts enhance intergenerational relationships, as well.

Communities for a Lifetime are inclusive communities – inclusive of people of all ages and abilities. When a community comes together and honors this service and addresses the needs of older residents, the entire community gains a sense of well-being.

If your community is not currently working toward becoming a *Community for a Lifetime*, I encourage you to learn more about the initiative. Tapping the wealth of wisdom and life experience of older adults is key to making our communities a better place for people of all ages to live.

Sincerely,



E. Douglas Beach
Secretary

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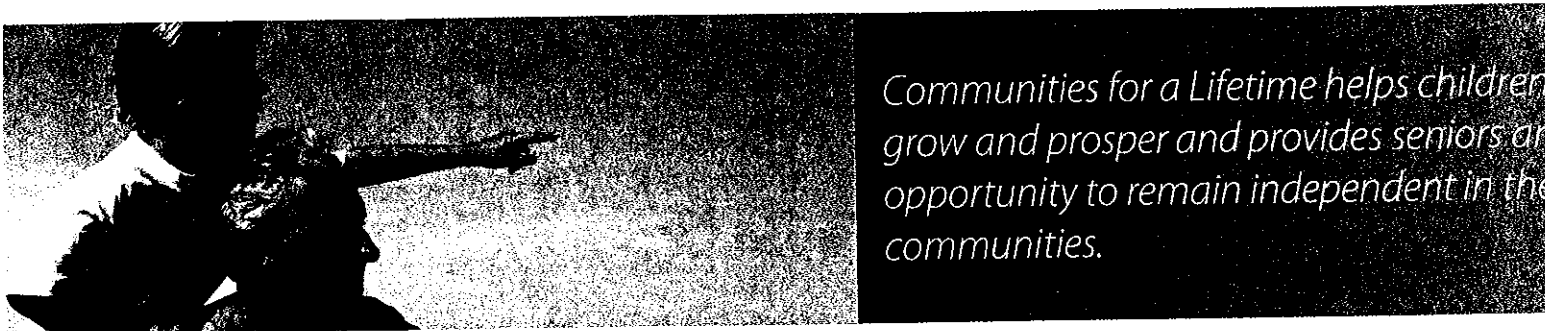
<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>

Overview

Communities for a Lifetime is a statewide initiative, begun in 1999, that assists Florida cities, towns and counties in planning and implementing improvements that benefit their residents, youthful or elder. Communities use existing resources and state technical assistance to make improvements in housing, health care, transportation, accessibility, business partnerships, community education, employment, volunteer opportunities and recreation.

The goal of the initiative is to help Florida communities become better places for elders to live, providing all residents the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of their communities. The ongoing process of self-assessment and improvement can help a community achieve the following goals:

- To create an inventory of services and opportunities that promote the independence and quality of life for older adults in the community.
- To initiate partnerships to promote the development of senior friendly community amenities.



The Benefits

Communities for a Lifetime helps children grow and prosper and provides seniors an opportunity to remain independent in their communities. Caregivers for those of any age then receive the support they need and elders are enabled to age in place with dignity, security and purpose.

Individuals, communities, governments and businesses benefit by:

- Coordination of transportation, community planning, universal home designs and neighborhood interaction;
- Improved physical and mental health of residents through better access to social interaction, recreation, increased activity levels; and
- Effective community planning and design, encouraging mixed-use development and co-locating the places where people live, work, learn, shop and play.

Partnerships created during the evaluation process can maximize existing funding and resources. The purpose of this initiative is to assist local elected officials, community leaders and residents in working together to plan the most effective use of existing funding to achieve *Communities for a Lifetime* goals and benefits.



The Process

Creating a Community for a Lifetime requires the involvement of many team members, including community leaders and interested citizens.

A brief outline of short-term community goals and suggested steps in the process includes:

- Passing a resolution or proclamation in support of the program and notifying the Department of Elder Affairs (see page 24 for sample proclamation);
- Forming a committee to inventory and assess services important for senior independence and care;
- Completing a self-assessment by identifying activities and opportunities currently available in the community;
- Developing a community action plan with a timeline for completion;
- Sending the completed action plan to the Department of Elder Affairs for review and recommendations; and
- Developing strategies to begin partnerships to address identified needs.

The Team Members

Becoming a *Community for a Lifetime* requires teamwork and a partnership that has the commitment of community leaders and residents. Through partnerships, communities identify their strengths and weaknesses and plan to vision for the future. The following is a list of recommended team members:

- **County and or city elected officials and staff**
- **Business leaders or the local Chamber of Commerce**
- **Regional planning councils**
- **Developers, builders, architects**
- **Health care organizations and the medical community**
- **Housing officials**
- **Transportation officials**
- **Volunteers**
- **Senior centers**
- **Area agency on aging and other aging network organizations**
- **Parks and recreation**
- **AARP**
- **Employment organizations**
- **Faith-based organizations**
- **Public safety (police, fire)**
- **Education (universities, community colleges)**
- **Social service organizations (adult day cares, Alzheimer's groups, congregate meal sites, legal services, Social Security, etc.)**
- **Cultural organizations**



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Department of Elder Affairs staff members are available to help your community organize and facilitate the Communities for a Lifetime process.

Where can communities get assistance?

Department of Elder Affairs staff members are available to help your community organize and facilitate the *Communities for a Lifetime* process. Communities can take advantage of the resource of technical assistance and information available from statewide agencies such as the Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of Health, Department of Children & Families, Department of Environmental Protection, Agency for Workforce Innovation and Enterprise Florida.

Some of the other areas in which the Department of Elder Affairs may assist communities include:

- Conducting special events with the Governor and/or Secretary of the Department of Elder Affairs participating, when possible and appropriate;
- Providing a *Communities for a Lifetime* Blueprint (this document) and a variety of information, materials and resources (local and state) to assist the community in the self-assessment process. Items include the *Communities for a Lifetime* logo, sample proclamation and a facilitator's guide;
- Awarding recognition certificates;
- Hosting conference calls and providing training opportunities for communities involved in the process of assessment;
- Coordinating state level efforts and assistance in setting priorities on specific issues;
- Providing training, recognition and state support of local efforts;
- Identifying strategies and best practices of participating communities that promote senior independence and care; and
- Maintaining the *Communities for a Lifetime* Web site with contact and resource information.

The Department of Elder Affairs *Communities for a Lifetime* bureau will assist your community in connecting with information and resources. The bureau includes professionals from the fields of health and wellness, volunteerism and intergenerational programs, transportation, housing, employment, and community relations.

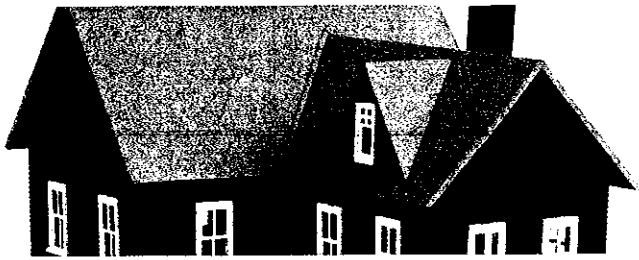
COMMUNITY PROFILE

As you begin the self-assessment process, it may be helpful to begin with a broad overview by taking a look at some general informational issues pertaining to the community.

1. Describe your community's geography, economy and population trends.
2. Describe a few of the community's unique features that provide a high quality of life for residents.
3. Find out what organizations produce a directory of services for older adults. How is it made available to residents?
4. What do you hope to accomplish with the process?
5. How can Communities for a Lifetime improve existing community planning efforts?

Discussion Notes

HOUSING



The department is researching and advocating for best practices in elder housing planning, design and construction to meet the needs of elders and youth alike.

Florida is recognized as one of the top retirement states in the nation. Every day, elders relocate here with hopes of spending their golden years enjoying the mild climate, beautiful natural resources and abundant recreational opportunities. The need for affordable housing for low-income and frail elders has reached critical levels.

Through the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs helps to form innovative and effective partnerships in each community to help residents and leaders identify, assess and implement plans to fit their elder housing needs. The department is researching and advocating for best practices in elder housing planning, design and construction to meet the needs of elders and youth alike.

Housing trends emphasize the need to design communities where quality-of-life issues and supportive services are provided throughout the life of an individual. It is the initiative's goal to revive key elements of the communities of yesteryear for our citizens and serve as a model retirement state.

Since its inception, the department's Elderly Housing Unit has established formal partnerships with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, and collaborated with organizations such as the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. It has also facilitated the establishment of several affordable assisted living pilot projects across Florida to address the assisted living needs of frail elders in rural, public housing and other underserved areas.

The goal of the Elder Housing Unit is to provide outreach, information and referral, and stakeholder development and technical assistance for elders in the state of Florida. This is accomplished through the following:

- Maintaining and enhancing statewide outreach efforts to ensure the public and target populations are aware of affordable assisted living and affordable supportive housing that supports Medicaid and other public assistance programs and services, including how to access them via the Florida Affordable Assisted Living Web site, www.floridaaffordableassistedliving.org;
- Increasing and enhancing housing options that accommodate Medicaid waiver programs by educating communities, housing financiers and developers on the importance of supportive housing and related resources that facilitate aging in place, living at an optimal level of functioning and diverting clients from more intensive and expensive levels of care;
- Facilitating access to assisted living and other housing options that provide Medicaid and other public assistance programs and services by processing requests for information and assistance regarding long-term care resources for low-income frail elders and disabled adults;
- Developing and maintaining stakeholder collaboration with elder housing and service developers, providers, government agencies, consumer groups, communities and financiers to address related issues, challenges and opportunities; and
- Facilitating affordable assisted living and supportive housing in underserved areas, supporting best practices in the industry, piloting projects and demonstrations, and evaluating related efforts.

Suggested Team Members

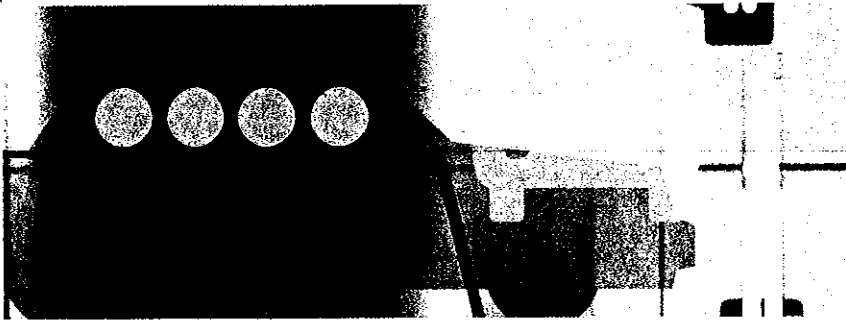
- City and Regional Planners
- Growth Management
- Public Works
- Planning Department
- Adult Family Care Homes
- Apartment Complex Representative
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Board of Realtors Representative
- Builders Association
- City and County Housing
- Housing Agency and/or Foundation
- Major Development Representative

Questions

1. To what extent are architects and developers aware of the benefits of universal design?
2. What organizations provide home modification services?
3. What elder friendly housing options are available within your community? Be sure to include all naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs), apartment complexes, independent living communities, assisted living facilities, adult family care homes, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes.
4. What means are available for securing appropriate living arrangements after a person can no longer access needed goods and services, prepare meals, or do household chores?
5. In what ways do tax structures and zoning laws accommodate the needs of senior homeowners and caregivers of frail elders?

Discussion Notes

TRANSPORTATION



Increased mobility allows seniors, Florida's most valuable resource, to continue making valuable financial and social contributions to the state, and to remain in their community for a lifetime.

Mobility and accessibility are essential for independent living, and transportation is the link that allows access to needed services and activities. Transportation plays a vital role in the lives of elder Floridians, and no single solution can meet all the mobility needs of Florida's senior population – rather, a variety of services and systems are necessary to do so effectively.

Community design profoundly influences consumer mobility decisions. Participating *Communities for a Lifetime* are realizing through their visioning efforts that other mobility options such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and safe crosswalks are not just “extras,” but essential investments in the health and safety of their residents of all ages.

These communities are providing opportunities for residents to be active and safe, which not only enriches their quality of life, but also improves health and increases longevity. In addition, steps to improve the environment for older adults are beneficial to others as well. For example, making sidewalks and crosswalks safe and accessible helps not only older residents, but also people using wheelchairs, parents pushing strollers and young children walking to school.

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs' multi-solution transportation policy recommends that local communities consider the development of **Independent Transportation Networks (ITNs)**. ITNs work with local transportation providers to develop and expand elder friendly transportation, and encourage the development of alternative providers. The policy also supports the recommendations of the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee's recommendations on dementia and driving.

The department's efforts also include continued partnerships and ongoing collaboration with other state agencies including the Department of Transportation (Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the Elder Road User Program) and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (Florida-At-Risk Driver Council and GrandDriver Program).

Many opportunities exist for adults to assess and refresh their driving skills. The department supports driver assessment centers and organizations that help older persons maintain their safe driving ability for as long as possible.

Increased mobility allows seniors, Florida's most valuable resource, to continue making valuable financial and social contributions to the state, and to remain in their community for a lifetime.

Suggested Team Members

- AARP-55 Alive Program
- Airport Manager
- Local Transportation Providers
- Neighborhood Associations
- Public Mass Transit Providers
- Safety Resource Center

Questions

1. What alternative transportation options are available? Provide contact information, hours of operation, routes, service areas, eligibility requirements and costs.
2. What public transportation is available?
3. What routes, service areas and costs are available? How much time is needed for travel?
4. What are the senior friendly features of private transportation providers?
5. What programs are available to assist older adults with assessing their own driving abilities?

Discussion Notes

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



There is no medicine that can compete with physical activity to prevent problems of aging and promote vitality and zest for life.
—Active Living Coalition for Older Adults

Improvements in medicine, public health, science and technology have enabled today's older adults to live longer and healthier lives than previous generations. Older adults want to remain healthy and independent at home in their communities. Health promotion, disease prevention, and injury prevention activities and programs are a priority for older adults, their families and the health care system.

The Department of Elder Affairs offers health promotion programs that help older adults understand how their lifestyles and family health histories impact their physical and mental health, and help them develop personal practices that enhance their total well being. The state contracts with area agencies on aging throughout Florida and works with other partners to provide health and wellness programs around the state.

The Older Americans Act requires area agencies on aging to provide evidence-based programs, including fitness, nutrition, disease prevention and self-management programs. The goal of these programs is to change attitudes and behavior that promote health and well being for older adults. Statewide use of these programs will improve seniors' quality of life, reduce health care costs and complement the increasing focus on prevention in our health care system.

Promoting the healthy lifestyles of older people is vital in helping them to maintain health and functional independence and lead healthy and independent lives. *Communities for a Lifetime* is a tool that promotes active living through policy, programs and physical infrastructure.

Suggested Team Members

- AARP
- Accessibility Services
- Adult Day Cares
- Caregiver Services
- Congregate Meal Sites
- Financial Counseling
- Insurance Counseling
- Legal Services
- Low-income Services
- Mental Health Providers
- Area Health Education Centers

- Non-medical Services
- Social Security
- Health Planning Councils
- Alzheimer's Program/Centers
- County Health Department
- Hospice
- Hospitals
- Medical Equipment Businesses
- Nursing Homes
- Private Home Health Businesses
- Disease-specific Foundations

Questions

1. What opportunities are available to older adults to maintain physical and mental health, such as flu shots, support groups, and neighborhood gardens?
2. What health care services are available for low-income individuals?
3. Are there adequate mental health and substance abuse services?
4. Are there an adequate number of grocery stores that offer nutritious foods, or are residents forced to shop at near-by convenience stores?
5. Is the public water fluoridated?

Discussion Notes

EMPLOYMENT



The truth is that older adults remain actively involved in their communities through volunteerism, and many are still employed.

As the nation's baby boomers are beginning to reach "adulthood," many older adults are challenging the myth that growing older means the end of productivity. The truth is that older adults remain actively involved in their communities through volunteerism, and many are still employed. Furthermore, boomers will be even more likely to look for ways to have meaningful engagement in a secondary career, while also having the flexibility in the workplace that they were unable to have during their primary careers.

The workforce of the near future will include young retirees who want second careers, people who want to work beyond age 65, and people seeking an income, but not necessarily a full-time job. By 2008, 40 percent of the labor force will be age 45 and older, and workers age 55 and older are expected to increase to more than 20 percent of the labor force by 2014.

With the aging of baby boomers and the re-vamping of the workforce, a significant pool of expertise will leave the workforce. Half of our current nursing staff is expected to leave over the next seven years, and one in eight government workers is between the ages of 55 and 64. For the first time in history, the number of younger workers entering the labor market will not replace those who are leaving.

Human resource managers find older workers are assets because they are loyal, dedicated, produce quality work, have lower turnover rates, are crisis oriented, and have experience in a wide variety of situations. They also work well with co-workers and have solid reading, writing and math skills.

With these qualities being the trend among older workers, businesses benefit from evaluating how well they attract and retain older workers. By adopting a few strategies to attract older workers, employers can tap into their wealth of loyalty, experience and maturity and also help make their communities a better place for people of all ages.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) has two important purposes: first, to increase participants' economic self-sufficiency; and second, to increase the number of persons who may benefit from unsubsidized employment. Through SCSEP, older workers have access to services such as an annual physical examination, supportive services, job search assistance, community service assignments and job training. Further, participants have opportunities to receive assistance through one-stop career centers. This program is an important component of the *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative because it affords participants the opportunity to remain independent in their communities.

SCSEP participants work an average of 20 hours per week and are paid the highest of federal, state or local minimum wage, or the prevailing wage. They are placed in a wide variety of community service jobs at non-profit and public facilities, including day-care centers, senior centers, schools and hospitals. It is intended that these community service experiences will serve as a bridge to other employment opportunities.

SCSEP provides subsidized, part-time community service training to low-income persons age 55 and older who have poor employment prospects. The family income of applicants cannot exceed 125 percent of the federal poverty level. Enrollment priority is given to persons over age 60, veterans, and qualified spouses of veterans. Preference is given to minorities, persons who speak limited English and individuals who have the greatest economic need.

Suggested Team Members

- Experience Works
- Chamber of Commerce
- Business Leaders
- Economic Development Council
- One-Stop Career Centers
- Local Labor Agency

Questions

1. What programs and/or agencies are available to assist low-income older adults in finding employment?
2. What organizations are available to provide low or no-cost skills upgrading or computer training to older individuals?
3. Are there opportunities for older adults to take English-as-a-second-language courses to help expand employment opportunities?
4. What businesses actively recruit and retain older workers?

Discussion Notes

VOLUNTEERISM



Older and younger people, who form the cornerstones of our communities, are connecting to share time and experience

The *Communities for a Lifetime* initiative brings elders together with their communities to share their knowledge and experience. The department is committed to building an elder-friendly and volunteer-friendly environment in every community throughout Florida. Volunteers enhance their own lives and the lives of those they serve. With committed volunteers, communities can offer a wider variety of services that would otherwise be unavailable.

Florida's Department of Elder Affairs is the first state unit on aging in the country to have a statutorily mandated office that focuses on volunteer issues and promotes volunteer programs throughout the state. The Office of Volunteer and Community Services' certified volunteer manager works with a number of organizations that provide valuable services by and for elders and intergenerational volunteer opportunities. Volunteers offer a wide range of services, including:

- Home repair
- Information and referral
- Home delivery of meals
- In-home respite
- Task force involvement
- Council membership
- Planning committee membership
- Advisory board membership
- Fundraising
- Health promotion
- Program planning
- Bookkeeping
- Clerical duties
- Advocacy

In today's world, there is no limit to the variety and forms of voluntary services community members are able to provide, nor an age restriction for volunteering. Older and younger people, who form the cornerstones of our communities, are connecting to share time and experiences. *Communities for a Lifetime* are encouraged to promote civic engagement by capturing both the diversity of voluntary services and the spirit of volunteering that motivates people to make a difference in their communities every day.

The *Communities for a Lifetime* unit can assist with volunteer program development, volunteer management training and certification, volunteer recruitment, program promotion and volunteer recognition.

INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Our elders give us a mature, historical perspective of who we are, where we are, where we came from and how we got there, while our youth give us a childlike vision of the future and all that we can still be.

Communities thrive when the contributions of all generations are embraced and engaged. Our elders give us a mature, historical perspective of who we are, where we are, where we came from and how we got there, while our youth give us a childlike vision of the future and all that we can still be. Intergenerational programs give us the opportunity to bridge these vantage points, and create a strong sense of community and an appreciation for the contributions of each group. *Communities for a Lifetime* are places where these connections flourish.

Intergenerational Connections brings together different generations in ongoing and mutually beneficial activities such as mentoring and volunteerism. Youth and seniors share their talents and resources, supporting each other in relationships that benefit both the individual and the community.

Benefits of Intergenerational Connections

- **Improved relations between youth and older adults** – as individuals learn more about each other, stereotypes and barriers disappear.
- **Positive effect on problems** – family problems (as evidenced by the recent wave of offenses by juveniles) can often spill over into the community with devastating consequences, but when generations work together in a positive way, everyone wins.
- **Empowered communities** – people begin to care about each other.

Intergenerational programs and activities, by their very nature, address issues of family across the life cycle. Further, they foster a willingness to cross disciplinary and cultural boundaries to solve problems.

With the projected increase in the number of Florida retirees and the current deterioration of social interaction between elders and youth, the Department of Elder Affairs' goal of developing and expanding intergenerational partnerships will encourage elders and young people to make the connections necessary to enhance community resources and bridge the generation gap – bringing them together, each one helping the other.

The long-term benefits derived from *Intergenerational Connections* are increased services to all ages, coordinated resource sharing and improved communication between programs that currently serve elders and programs that serve youth, and the creation of an atmosphere where elders and youth working and socializing together are the norms – not the exception.

VOLUNTEERISM AND INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Suggested Team Members

- Faith Leaders
- Senior Companion Program
- Local Volunteer Services
- Foster Grandparent Program
- VISTA
- AmeriCorps
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Questions

1. What opportunities are available for meaningful volunteer contributions?
2. What transportation is available for working/volunteering seniors?
3. What programs in the community encourage the involvement of seniors and youth?
4. What programs are available through faith-based organizations?
5. What programs or opportunities are available for intergenerational connections?

Discussion Notes

Community Best Practices

Health and Wellness - In 2006, the department, along with the Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, obtained grant funding to train 100 teams to deliver chronic disease self-management courses in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties by the end of 2007. These evidence-based health promotion and chronic disease self-management programs are carried out at the community level through senior centers, nutrition programs, senior housing projects and faith-based groups.

Transportation and Volunteerism - Volunteers in Motion is an innovative transportation service in Brevard County coordinated by Space Coast Area Transit, the Senior Resource Alliance and the Community Care for the Elderly program. This successful program began in 1996 in an effort to provide reliable transportation to Brevard County's elderly citizens. The program links volunteers with county vehicles, and is an important example of community-based programs that provide important services to seniors and impacts their quality of life in a positive way. In 1997, the Governor's Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged honored Volunteers in Motion with the Innovative Transportation Program of the Year Award.

Employment - At the age of 60, unemployed, and desperately seeking employment, Ms. B. moved from Florida to Connecticut to join relatives. She wanted to stop using her credit cards to pay her bills. Four years later, she applied for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and was assigned to work at the Lake County Sheriff's Department in the Sheriff's Road Patrol Division. During her assignment, she received upgraded computer training and created a computer-generated statistical report for traffic violations. Her supervisors were so impressed with the report, they started using it during their monthly meetings. Because of Ms. B.'s skills, positive attitude and her high level of productivity, she was asked to apply for an unsubsidized job with the sheriff's office. Due to her work ethic, Ms. B. was hired to work full-time at \$9.74 an hour with full benefits. The SCSEP program helped Ms. B. re-enter the workforce, gain new skills, and maintain her independence within her community, as it does for many elders throughout Florida.

Housing - *Miracle Hill Nursing Home and Convalescent Center* was recently awarded a \$4.7 million dollar grant by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Section 202 program to build affordable housing for seniors in Tallahassee who meet the low income guidelines. Miracle Village is an independent living apartment community which provides housing to those who are age 62 and older. This 33,900 square foot complex is designed to meet the comforts of those it houses by providing safe and secure living. Special features include a library and community center. Residents pay only 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent and HUD subsidizes the remainder. Miracle Hill Nursing and Convalescent Center is owned by the Florida State Primitive Baptist Association, Inc.

Intergenerational Connections - Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law students participating in the law school's Legal Clinic Program in partnership with the Town of Eatonville are working to develop the town's needs assessment to identify areas of improvement to support the independence and care of Eatonville seniors. This unique partnership between the Town of Eatonville and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law gives the students first hand insight into a process that will become beneficial toward improving the quality of life for the Town of Eatonville seniors.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Greenways and Trails

Connecting Florida's Communities

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

(850) 245-2052

www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/

Florida Department of State

Florida Main Street

Bureau of Historic Preservation

R.A. Gray Bldg., 4th Floor

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

(850) 245-6333

www.dos.state.fl.us/preservation/architecture/mainstreet

Florida Department of Community Affairs

Waterfronts Florida Partnerships

2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 922-1772

www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/waterfronts

Florida Department of Community Affairs

Division of Housing and Community Development

2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

www.floridacommunitydevelopment.org

(850) 488-8466

Florida Department of Community Affairs

Front Porch Florida

2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

(850) 487-9556

E-mail: frontporch@dca.state.fl.us

Florida Department of Transportation

Safe Mobility for Life

State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office

605 Suwannee Street, MS 36

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/trafficoperations/>

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Florida GrandDriver

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0570
(850) 617-2713

Florida Association of Senior Centers

Tallahassee Senior Services

1400 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(850) 891-4000
soupbone@comcast.net

The All-America City Award

1445 Market St., Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 571-4343
www.ncl.org/

Partners for Livable Communities

1429 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 887-5990
www.livable.com

AARP

Livable Communities

601 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20049
1-(888) 687-2277
www.aarp.org

Administration on Aging (AoA)

Choices for Independence

Washington, DC 20201
(202) 619-0724
www.aoa.gov

Florida League of Cities, Inc.

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)
Post Office Box 1757
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1757
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